

REMARKS

Claims 8-13 have been withdrawn. Claim 1 has been amended. Therefore, claims 1-7 are pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,615,257 to Lee et al. ("hereinafter "Lee"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as Lee does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claims 1-7.

A. Independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Lee

Amended claim 1 recites, "a storage facility to store at least one configuration knowledge instance and at least one configuration data instance for each of a plurality of network devices, wherein the instances of configuration knowledge describe physical and logical capabilities of the plurality of network devices and the instances of configuration data describe the physical and logical capabilities utilized by the plurality of network devices." The Office Action cites to Figure 2, elements 220 and 230 of Lee as anticipating this limitation. *See Office Action*, page 2, paragraph 4. Applicant respectfully disagrees that Lee anticipates these limitations of claim 1. In contrast, Lee merely discloses two flow diagram boxes titled "Configuration Data" and "Configuration Areas" within its Figure 2.

Nowhere within the specification of Lee are these flow diagram boxes referred to, let alone their functionality described. As such, it cannot be inferred that elements 220 and 230 of Figure 2 teach that each of the plurality of network devices have at least one configuration knowledge instance and at least one configuration data instance. Further, it cannot be inferred that the information stored in the flow diagram boxes of Lee describe the logical and physical capabilities of their associated network device as well as the capabilities being utilized by each

network device. In other words, Lee is completely silent on these limitations. As such, Lee fails to disclose each and every limitation of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Lee.

B. Dependent claims 2-7 are not anticipated by Lee

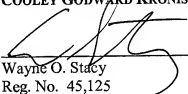
Dependent claims 2-7 depend upon and include the limitations of claim 1. As such, claims 2-7 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Lee.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that no further impediments exist to the allowance of this application and, therefore, solicits an indication of allowability. However, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if any questions or comments arise.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

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